



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#23-0017

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Greg Chavarria, City Manager

DATE: February 21, 2023

TITLE: First Reading – Ordinance Amending the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances Chapter Nine, Building and Construction, Article Two Permits and Inspections, Division Two Fees to Adjust Building Fees for Services Related to Land Development and Permitting- **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission consider an ordinance amending the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinance, Chapter Nine Building and Construction, Article Two Permits and Inspections, Division Two Fees to adjust building fees for services related to land development and permitting.

Background

In September 2022, the City Commission approved an ordinance amending and increasing building fees for master permits from 1.25 percent of a project's total estimated construction costs to 1.5 percent. This increase was approved to offset the Division's operational expenses related to permitting and enforcement of the Florida Building Code and to remain financially sound by recovering the full cost of services provided. However, this ordinance amendment did not include the increase in fees for Permits by Affidavit.

According to Florida Statutes § 553.791, Permits by Affidavit allow applicants to hire third-party providers to conduct inspections and plan reviews for their permits as opposed to paying the administrative costs to the City of Fort Lauderdale for conducting the plan reviews and inspections. The use of a third-party provider decreases the direct costs for the City to carry out its duties in accordance with the Florida Building Code on behalf of the City by 18% if a private provider is conducting the inspections or 36% if a private provider is conducting the inspections and plan reviews.

To ensure the discounted rate given to Permits by Affidavit remains consistent despite changes to the master permit fee, the fee schedule ordinance for Permits by Affidavit will be amended so Permit by Affidavit applicants will be charged the standard master permit fee and then will receive applicable fee reductions by the type of Permits by Affidavit. With this change, an 18% fee reduction in the master permit fee will be applied for Permits by

Affidavit with inspections only while Permits by Affidavit with inspections and plan reviews will be given a 36% reduction.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the City associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Internal Support Focus Area
- Goal 8: Build a leading government organization that manages all resources wisely and sustainably
- Objective: Maintain financial integrity through sound budgeting practices, prudent fiscal management, cost effective operations, and long-term financial planning

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are United

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040* Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Business Development Focus Area
- The Economic Development Element
- Goal 2: Enhance the economic competitiveness of Fort Lauderdale through policies that encourage retention and recruitment of business and industry which provide living-wage employment and increased training and competitiveness of the local workforce.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Ordinance

Prepared by: John Travers, Building Official, Development Services Department

Department Director: Christopher Cooper, AICP, Development Services Department